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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Devlin et al

Docket: DCS-9119B

Filed: 02/05/2004

Group Art Unit: 1797

Serial No.: 10/773,079

Examiner: Gakh, Yelena G.

Title: Method of Storing and Reprocessing  
Patient Specimens in an Automatic Analyzer

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116**

This communication is in response to the Examiner's Final Office Action dated March 7, 2008, in which claims 1-10 were rejected. Applicants respectfully request entry of this communication after final and reconsideration of the claimed invention. In the alternative, Applicants respectfully request entry of this communication in order to present rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal.